

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USBERLIN NIACT IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, BQG, AKB

SUBJECT: QUAI REQUESTS DEMARCHE TO SENAT REGARDING
PURPORTED REMARKS BY BERLIN MAYOR STOBBE ON
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

REF: USBER 1025

SUMMARY: THE FRENCH, ON INSTRUCTIONS, HAVE PROPOSED TO
THE BRITISH AND US BONN GROUP REPS THAT WE RECOMMEND
AN ALLIED INQUIRY TO THE SENAT REGARDING REMARKS PUR-
PORTEDLY MADE BY BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE TO THE
EFFECT THAT THE NAMES OF PARTIES' CANDIDATES FOR
DELEGATES FROM BERLIN TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
SHOULD BE MADE PUBLICLY KNOWN PRIOR TO THE NEXT BERLIN
LOCAL ELECTIONS. THE FRENCH ARE CONCERNED THAT THIS
COULD LEAD TO DE FACTO POPULAR ELECTIONS FOR CANDIDATES
TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN BERLIN AND THE UK REP
AGREED TO RECOMMEND A LOW-KEY INQUIRY TO THE

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SENAT AS TO WHAT IT WAS THAT STOBBE IN FACT SAID. THE
US REP RESERVED HIS POSITION, BECAUSE OF LACK OF PRIOR
KNOWLEDGE OF THE PURPORTED REMARKS. ACTION REQUESTED:
SEE PARAGRAPH 10. END SUMMARY

1. ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PARIS, THE FRENCH REP (RICHARD)
CALLED A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ALLIED BONN GROUP REPS

ON MAY 9 TO DISCUSS REMARKS ALLEGEDLY MADE BY STOBBE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON APRIL 27. ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH MISSION IN BERLIN, WHOSE MINISTER HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER IN MORE DETAIL WITH STOBBE. STOBBE "PROPOSED" THAT THE BERLIN POLITICAL PARTIES SHOULD MAKE PUBLIC THEIR LIST OF PROPOSED CANDIDATES FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SUFFICIENTLY EARLY FOR THE BERLIN POPULATION TO KNOW THE NAMES OF THESE CANDIDATES WHEN THE ELECTIONS WERE HELD FOR THE NEW BERLIN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, REPORTEDLY IN MARCH, 1979.

2. RICHARD SAID THAT THE QUAI WAS CONCERNED THAT THIS COULD LEAD TO DE FACTO POPULAR ELECTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DELEGATES FROM BERLIN, E.G. IF THE PARTIES AGREED THAT DELEGATES WOULD BE AUTOMATICALLY SELECTED FROM THE BERLIN HOUSE OF DEPUTIES IN SOME FASHION DEPENDENT ON THE NUMBER OF POPULAR VOTES THEY RECEIVED CONTRARY TO THE ALLIED DIRECTIVE THAT SUCH CANDIDATES WERE TO BE SELECTED BY THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES. EVEN IF THIS WERE NOT DONE, THE RESULT COULD BE THAT THE CANDIDATES FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, WHO WOULD PRESUMABLY ALSO BE CANDIDATES FOR THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES, WOULD EMPHASIZE THE FACT THAT THEY WERE THEIR PARTIES' CHOICES FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE BERLIN ELECTIONS WOULD TAKE ON THE TRAPPINGS OF A POPULAR CAMPAIGN

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FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

3. RICHARD SAID THE QUAI BELIEVES THAT THE REMARKS BY STOBBE SHOULD BE TAKEN UP BY THE ALLIES WITH STOBBE AND WITH THE FRG. THE QUAI SAID THAT THE ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN BERLIN SHOULD NOT GIVE RISE TO A CAMPAIGN OF THE SORT HELD IN THE FRG AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

4. UK REP (EYERS) SAID THAT LONDON IS AWARE OF STOBBE'S REMARKS BUT HAS NOT REACTED TO THEM. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT LITTLE OF STOBBE'S BEHAVIOR IN THE LAST YEAR SUPPORTED THE VIEW THAT STOBBE WAS TRYING TO MAKE TROUBLE WITH THE SOVIETS AND CERTAINLY NOT FOR POLITICAL GAIN. HE SAID IT WAS MORE LIKELY THAT STOBBE WAS SEEKING TO PREVENT THE CDU IN BERLIN FROM PORTRAYING ITSELF AS THE ONLY PARTY INTERESTED IN EUROPE. SHOULD THE FCO BE PREPARED TO TAKE UP STOBBE'S REMARKS, AND EYERS THOUGHT THE FCO WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO DO SO WITH STOBBE HIMSELF, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE FCO WOULD BE PREPARED TO AGREE TO MORE THAN AN INQUIRY AS TO WHAT STOBBE HAD SAID.

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5. RICHARD SAID THAT THE QUAI HAD SUGGESTED AN APPROACH TO STOBBE BUT THAT HE COULD RECOMMEND A LOW-KEY INQUIRY TO A MEMBER OF THE SENAT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASKING WHAT STOBBE HAD IN MIND. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE ALLIED BONN GROUP REPS AGREE TO RECOMMEND SUCH AN APPROACH.

6. THE US REP AGREED THAT IF WHAT STOBBE HAD IN MIND WAS SOMETHING WHICH WOULD LEAD TO DE FACTO POPULAR ELECTION OF THE CANDIDATES FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, OR A POPULAR CAMPAIGN FOR THOSE CANDIDATES, IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR THE ALLIES AND COULD VITIATE WHAT WE HAVE TOLD THE SOVIETS. HE AGREED THAT STOBBE WAS NOTED FOR HIS GOOD SENSE AND SAID THAT IT WOULD BE A BIT MUCH FOR THE ALLIES TO MAKE A FORMAL DEMARCHE TO STOBBE. HE ALSO SAID THAT A FORMAL DEMARCHE

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TO THE SENAT WOULD REQUIRE CAPITALS' APPROVAL AND SUGGESTED THAT WE MIGHT INQUIRE OF THE BERLIN REP (MEICHS-
NER) IN THE BONN GROUP AS TO WHAT WAS SAID. HE ALSO
SUGGESTED THAT WE INCLUDE A REFERENCE IN THE ASSESSMENT
FOR THE QUADRIPARTITE DINNER TO THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ISSUE BE TREATED IN BERLIN WITH
RESERVE AND DISCRETION. RICHARD AGREED THAT THE
REFERENCE IN THE ASSESSMENT WOULD BE USEFUL BUT BOTH HE
AND EYERS SAID THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD PURSUE THE MATTER
IN BERLIN, WHERE THE ALLIES HAVE SUPREME AUTHORITY,
BEFORE POLITICIANS HAD TAKEN PUBLIC STANDS FROM WHICH IT
WILL BE DIFFICULT TO BACK DOWN.

7. SINCE HE HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER, THE
US REP RESERVED HIS POSITION AND IT WAS AGREED TO
RETURN TO THE SUBJECT LATER THIS WEEK, PROBABLY ON MAY
11 OR 12, WHEN THE SUBJECT OF ARMING JUDGES AND PROSEC-
UTORS WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED BY THE ALLIED BONN GROUP
REPS.

8. COMMENT: WE FIND THE WHOLE THING RATHER CURIOUS
AND BELIEVE THAT THE FRENCH MAY BE UNDULY CONCERNED
BECAUSE OF A SERIES OF ASSUMPTIONS THEY MAKE ON WHICH
THAT CONCERN RESTS. WE ASSUME THAT STOBBE DOES NOT
HAVE IN MIND THE TYPE OF SCENARIO WHICH THE FRENCH SAY
COULD EVOLVE. THAT BEING SAID, THE SENSITIVITY OF
BERLIN'S INCLUSION IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IS SUCH
THAT WE BELIEVE A LOW-KEY INQUIRY TO THE SENAT CAN DO

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NO HARM. THIS COULD SERVE AS A REMINDER THAT THE ALLIES
WOULD LIKE FOR THE QUESTION OF EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS IN BERLIN TO BE TREATED WITH
APPROPRIATE RESERVE AND DISCRETION, AND THAT THE
ALLIES WILL WISH TO BE CONSULTED FULLY ON PROCEDURES
TO BE FOLLOWED BEFORE ANY PROPOSALS OR DECISIONS ARE
ANNOUNCED.

9. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING MORE USBER HAS ON
STOBBE'S REMARKS AND, UNLESS USBER'S REVIEW OF THE
MATTER DOES NOT SUPPORT THE FRENCH REPORT OF WHAT
STOBBE SAID, PROPOSE TO RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT
APPROVE A LOW-KEY INQUIRY TO THE SENAT AS TO WHAT IT
WAS THAT STOBBE IN FACT SAID AND WHAT HE MEANT. AS
NOTED ABOVE, WE WILL BE SEEKING TO GAIN FRENCH SUPPORT
IN BONN FOR A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF ARMS FOR
PROSECUTORS AND JUDGES AT THE MEETING EXPECTED TO BE
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HELD MAY 11 OR 12 AND A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE FRENCH
COULD FACILITATE SUCH SUPPORT.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF
USBER COULD INFORM US PROMPTLY IF STOBBE DID NOT IN
FACT MAKE THE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM.
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